

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

12. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular silk color as one of the wagering criteria.

14. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select whether the action taken involves the automatic placing of a wager whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied.

15. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves the automatic placing of a wager whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied, the method further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select a wager amount and wager type

associated with the wagering criteria prior to the automatic placing of the wager.

16. The method defined in claim 1 wherein there are multiple sets of wagering criteria established by the user each with an associated action to be taken when that set of wagering criteria is satisfied, the method further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select a different wager amount and wager type for each of the multiple sets of wagering criteria.

17. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing different user interfaces with the wagering application for selecting different types of wagering criteria.

18. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select whether the action taken involves notification of the user.

19. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user at a set-top box connected to a television, the method further comprising notifying the user by displaying a partial-screen overlay message on top of a screen currently being displayed on the television.

20. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user, the method further comprising notifying the user that the

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wagering criteria have been satisfied using an e-mail message.

21. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user, the method further comprising notifying the user that the wagering criteria have been satisfied using a wireless message.

22. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user at a set-top box connected to a television, the method further comprising notifying the user that the wagering criteria have been satisfied by displaying a message on the television.

23. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide a display screen containing a summary of which types of wagering criteria have been established.

24. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide a display screen containing a summary of which types of wagering criteria have been established, wherein the summary includes information on wager amounts and wager types that the user has established for use whenever various sets of wagering criteria are satisfied.

25. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

displaying wagering criteria details for a given one of the sets of wagering criteria when the user selects that set from the summary.

26. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to limit automatic wagering based on monetary wagering limits.

27. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to select a desired monetary wagering limit; and

using the wagering application to limit automatic wagering based on the monetary wagering limit.

28. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select an expiration time for automatic wagering.

29. A method for interactive wagering on horse races with an interactive wagering application implemented using a set-top box connected to a television, comprising:

automatically place a wager for the given horse when it is determined that the given horse is to run in a particular race; and

a transaction processing and subscription management system that handles the automatically placed wager.

33. The interactive wagering system defined in claim 32 further comprising user computer equipment separate from the user television equipment, wherein the interactive wagering application notifies the user at the user computer equipment by e-mail when the automatic wager has been placed.

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